COUNCIL OF ONTARIO UNIVERSITIES
CONSEIL DES UNIVERSITÉS DE L'ONTARIO

RECORD

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Meet the members of Council for 2006-2007
SEE SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT INSIDE

COU honours former Premier Bill Davis with Lifetime Achievement Award

On December 7, 2006, the man whom Premier Dalton McGuinty and former Premiers of Ontario refer to as "Mr. Premier" – the Honourable William (Bill) G. Davis – was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Council of Ontario Universities (COU). Mr. Davis, who served as Premier of Ontario from 1971 to 1985, was recognized for his vision, leadership and lifelong commitment to postsecondary education and for achieving the most significant advances in postsecondary education in the history of the province.

Close to 120 invited guests, including family members and a wide array of leaders from the universities, colleges and government attended the gala dinner held in Mr. Davis's honour. In attendance were former Premiers Bob Rae and David Peterson and former education ministers Dave Cooke, Dianne Cunningham, Lyn Eckler and Bette Stephenson. And those who could not attend – Premier McGuinty and former Premiers Mike Harris and Ernie Eves – sent congratulatory messages. In taped remarks, Premier McGuinty referred to Mr. Davis as "an education nut! Bravo! Because" he believed in the power of education and made a lasting impact on the quality of our schools and universities."

Premier McGuinty called Mr. Davis "an education nut! Bravo!"

Mr. Davis's indelible legacy to the province dates back to when he served as Ontario's first and longest serving minister responsible for colleges and universities. It was the 1960s – a time of tremendous social and technological transformation – and Mr. Davis, a relative newcomer to provincial politics, was assigned the challenging education portfolio and, before long, was appointed Minister of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs. Holding the dual ministerial roles until 1971, Mr. Davis promoted education as the tool to prosperity for a rapidly expanding population and, in doing so, ushered in an extraordinary period of change for Ontario.

He set up new public schools, often in converted factories, to accommodate larger numbers of students, consolidated and revamped Ontario's inefficient and unwieldy school board system, instilling a new attitude that schools should be cooperative, not competitive, and created the TVOntario educational television network for classrooms and living rooms across the province.

Mr. Davis also established several new universities throughout Ontario that continue to flourish and grow today and – by changing or creating legislation that would "meet the relevant needs of all adults within a community, of all socio-economic levels, of all kinds of interests and aptitudes" and at all stages of education – achievement put in place the structure of Ontario's colleges of applied arts and technology which has undoubtedly resulted in the creation of 24 public colleges.

He handled difficult decisions with "grace and conviction," said Mike Harris.

In the years that have followed Mr. Davis's retirement from office, he has continued to take not only a strong, informed but also an active role in the life of Ontario's public institutions and, in particular, the province's post-secondary system. Most recently, he was a member of the Advisory Panel to the government-commissioned Rae review of postsecondary education, led by Mr. Rae.

Mr. Rae, who presented COU's inaugural award to Mr. Davis, described him as "the finest public servant of our generation" and noted that he "built a vision of education as being at the core of our life" and that during a time of great expansion and change, he "understood what needed to be done."

In accepting the Lifetime Achievement Award, Mr. Davis – ever the consummate politician and orator – seized the occasion to speak directly to the representatives of government in attendance. He said that he "would like to see introduced a motion into the House of Commons that said … where post-secondary education is essential to the economic well-being of Canada, where the institutions are no longer provincial but are national in fact, relevance – it is important to the economic and the social well-being of the future of Canada, and whereas it is fundamental that we do more to support education throughout the country, the Government of Canada will in fact undertake to supply the provinces of Canada with not fewer funds at least for capital purposes."

David Peterson said he "used to know" a great leader.

In closing, Brampton's staunchest advocate and president was also quick to make a pitch to the members of Council to carry on with its ongoing advocacy efforts. "You can actually help the governments by being constructively critical as they assess their priorities – it's fundamental. It's necessary."

Mr. Davis's words echoed Premier McGuinty's commitment, expressed earlier in the Speech from the Throne, that his government will continue working with organizations such as COU "to build on Ontario's success, to make our colleges and universities the best that they can be, to make Ontario a place where everyone can

Applications to Ontario universities up by over 5% from last year

Good news story on "access" – story on "quality" yet to be written

As of January 15, 2007 – the deadline for submission of university applications – 76,569 secondary school students had applied for first-year admission to Ontario universities for fall 2007. This was an increase of 3,968 applicants or 5.2% over 2006 for the same period, and an increase of 9.0% and 11.7% over 2005 and 2004 levels, respectively. The significant growth comes on top of double-digit increases in applications in recent years, even after the double cohort had been accommodated. (The current 2006-07 enrolment of 352,300 students represents an increase of over 40% since 2000-01.)

Once again, the number of applicants exceeded projections as it had in 2006 and 2005. This recognition and commitment to university education is a good news story for Ontario – but surprising since university graduates contribute immensely to Ontario's social and economic development, to the health and well-being of its citizens and to its competitive position in the global knowledge economy.

This positive trend in applications can be attributed in no small part to the province's Reaching Higher plan, which was introduced in the 2005 budget and allocated $2.9 billion over five years in new funding to Ontario universities to enhance quality, accountability and accessibility.

But the increased demand also poses significant challenges for the university sector. The province and the universities anticipated that the increased investment would fund improvements in quality on campus, including better student-faculty ratios to enhance the student experience. However, as documented in COU's November 2006 paper, *Degrees Report: Demands, Resources, Accountability and Quality in the Reaching Higher Plan*, further than-anticipated enrolments have constrained the universities' capacity to make these improvements.

The report shows that these enrolments – which are 14,000 higher in 2006-07 than planned for in the Reaching Higher projections – have created a funding shortfall of about $100 million for this year, a figure that will grow to at least $300 million annually by 2009-10.

Although the Reaching Higher plan has committed funds for graduate enrolment expansion and quality improvements, those funds cannot be diverted to fund these additional students – which are, in effect, a new cost that needs to be covered by government – especially in light of the fact that universities are still waiting for the province to flow funding for the additional growth experienced in 2006-07.

Ontario universities want the applicants for September 2007 to have at least the same prospect of acceptance as previous years' applicants, but they cannot do it without the province's help in funding the enrolment growth. This year, each of Ontario's universities entered into a multi-year accountability agreement with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, binding that institution to make substantial improvements on campus. But those quality improvements – sought by both government and universities – will be at risk if the province does not commit new funds to meet the demands of these additional students.

Premier McGuinty acknowledges that Ontario has "the lowest levels of funding for our colleges and our universities" and is in fact stepping up a campaign to get a commitment of a larger share of federal funds in the upcoming federal budget to redress the fiscal imbalance in this and other public service areas. COU President Ian Clark and other leaders representing various sectors across the province have also lent their support to the provincial government by signing an open letter to Minister Flaherty, requesting that Ontario receive its fair share of federal transfer payments.

However, much more needs to be done on the part of the province but Dr. Clark remains confident and committed. "We look forward to working with the government on these funding issues to ensure that the province's success in improving access to quality postsecondary education can be sustained."

Every Ontario university is in a different position to respond to these enrolment pressures, but all have expressed their desire to see the increased demand met without compromising their institution's commitment to quality. For detailed institutional figures, visit the Ontario Universities' Application Centre web site (ouac.on.ca).

Ensuring that Funding Realities Are Better Understood

Through a coordinated, province-wide effort leading up to the provincial budget, Ontario universities are ensuring that the funding realities of higher education are being presented to Ministers, MPPs, senior local and regional councillors, community groups, local Chambers of Commerce and the media through a series of meetings, consultations, outreach activities, letters and editorial pieces. Those numbers make a compelling case for significant increases in investment to fund larger-than-expected enrolment numbers and much needed quality-improvements on campus.

Ontario's Investment in Universities...

...Relative to the Ontario Budget and Provincial GDP

- Relative to the size of the Ontario provincial budget and to its GDP, the Ontario government has committed more resources to the university sector over the last few years.
- Operating grants as a percentage of the total budget had declined from 13% in 1997-98 to 2% in 2001-02 and have improved to an estimated 3.2% by 2006-07.
- Funding as a percentage of GDP had declined from 0.7% in 1992-93 to 0.36% in 2001-02 and is projected to rise to 0.49% in 2006-07.
- As ratios have risen from their high points, it would require $900 million to close the gap relative to the provincial budget and $1.5 billion to close the gap relative to the GDP.

...Relative to Other Provinces

- On a funding per-capita basis, Ontario has been 10th out of 10 provinces for over 10 years.
- While the gap has narrowed as a result of the Reaching Higher plan, it is estimated that it would still require $950 million to reach the funding level of the other nine provinces in 2008-09.

...Relative to the United States

- In 2000, COU developed a method to create a set of 170 peer American institutions selected according to their similarity with Ontario universities in terms of size, degree profile and program mix.
- On a per-student basis, total revenue for the U.S. peer set was nearly one-third higher for the U.S. institutions compared to Ontario universities.

(continued)

through the power of education gets a fair shot at success and the chance to help build an even stronger province."

Well said, Premier McGuinty. Well done, Mr. Davis.

Video and photo highlights of the gala dinner are available on COU's web site www.cou.on.ca.

(left to right) COU's Ian Clark, Peter Lougheed and Bill Davis, and COU President Ian Clark

Ontario universities create CUDO

Now getting information out for students, parents and the public

In 2006, Ontario's 18 universities and the Ontario College of Art & Design worked together to use data already available to the public and compile and present the information in a consistent fashion. The result: the creation of the new online tool, Common University Data Ontario (CUDO), that allows students, parents and the public to access – and, if they wish, to compare – information gathered on a consistent basis.

With CUDO, users can assess one, two or all of Ontario's universities on the basis of several key benchmarks: number of degrees awarded; student enrolment and entering averages – all by program; number of students living on campus and activities offered; student satisfaction; first-year tuition and ancillary fees by program; number of teaching faculty; undergraduate class size by year level; research awards granted; and graduation rates and employment rates by program.

The data on CUDO will be updated on a regular basis, and feedback from the users of this online tool – which is linked to the web sites of COU (www.cou.on.ca) and the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (www.ouac.on.ca) – will help determine areas for expansion or enhancement. Jamie Mackay, COU's Vice-President, Policy and Analysis, explained that CUDO "complements the significant information we already provide" and that, with this new tool, "people are able to assess key data in a fair manner."

This information includes student-focused activities such as prospective student web sites and recruitment publications; *OSAC* magazine, which is available online and used by guidance counsellors and students alike; the Ontario Universities' Fair, a one-stop event in Toronto that offers students an opportunity to speak with representatives from universities across the province; and the co-ordinated University Information Program, which offers information sessions to high school students throughout Ontario.

Ontario universities also provide extensive information to the public and governments to meet their obligations for accountability, such as reports submitted annually to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) on operating and capital funds; research spending reports submitted to federal and provincial governments or agencies on how research funds are spent; accountability and performance reports submitted to key stakeholders on strategic, academic and business planning activities and deliberations of governing boards; and the posting of graduation and employment rates and OSAP (Ontario Student Assistance Program) information via the web sites of MTCU and individual institutions.

Ontario universities participate in key student surveys to ensure quality learning experience

As part of Ontario universities' concerted effort to improve the quality of teaching, in 2006 Ontario universities participated in a key initiative, the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). NSSE helps assess student engagement at the undergraduate level on the basis of five statistical benchmarks that research on learning environments has shown make undergraduate education effective: the level of academic challenge; the opportunities for active and collaborative learning; the intensity of the student-faculty interaction; the richness of the educational experience; and the extent of support offered by the campus environment.

While NSSE does not directly assess learning outcomes, it focuses on areas that enhance learning and on how students become engaged intellectually and participate in active and collaborative learning. However, ongoing work on the part of NSSE staff and researchers in validating the survey's benchmarks are helping to establish that there is indeed a vital link – between process and direct measures of academic success.

There is also considerable interest in the quality of graduate education and, consequently, with graduate student engagement, which is why Ontario universities will be participating in the Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey (CGPSS) in 2007. It is hoped that the results from participation in CGPSS will help Ontario universities to enhance the quality of the graduate student experience.

Also in 2006, all Ontario universities participated in the Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange (CSRDE). CSRDE supports decision-makers by gathering comparative retention and graduation data and producing reports to support retention efforts, providing information that is timely, comprehensive and unavailable through public sources. Institutions will also be able to review best practices in retention and identify effective retention strategies using evidence-based research.

COU meets with new Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario

COU has begun to meet regularly with representatives of the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO). The independent Crown agency, which was established in 2006 to ensure the continued improvement of the postsecondary education system in Ontario, now has its leadership in place: the Honourable Frank Iacobucci as Chair of the new Council; past University of Waterloo President James Downey as its first CEO and President; and McMaster's former Provost and Academic Vice-President Ken Norrie as its first Vice-President, Research.

Initial discussions have focused on how HEQCO would engage stakeholders in its work and differentiate itself from the good work already being done by existing organizations such as COU, Colleges Ontario (formerly known as the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario), the College-University Council Consortium and the Task Force on Competitiveness, Productivity and Economic Progress, while at the same time recognizing that ensuring substantial improvements in postsecondary education in the province will require significant investment on the part of government.

Areas of focus for HEQCO include examining quality issues at the program as well as the institutional level; monitoring the Student Access Guarantee; encouraging inter-institutional transfer; and ensuring access for underrepresented groups. The Council also hopes to provide useful advice on system planning and on inter-jurisdictional competitiveness.

In Memoriam: Eleanor Cheng

At the end of April 2006, Eleanor Cheng retired from COU after 15 years of steadfast service. Eleanor had come to COU from Montreal after working in marketing research for various organizations including McGill University, where she also earned her MBA. Once at COU, Eleanor quickly and rightly established a reputation for her professionalism and attention to detail in her duties as an analyst. For many years, Eleanor produced the annual COFO (Council of Finance Officers) reports – tirelessly prodding university representatives to get their financial information in on time and gently alerting them of any errors that might have crept into their submissions.

But what set Eleanor apart was not as simple as her professionalism. Eleanor possessed a positive outlook and cheery disposition, an innate kindness and compassion, and an almost patent refusal to seeing the negative side of a person. She was never too busy for a kind word or a thoughtful gesture, and many of us at COU were recipients of unsolicited "gifts" of compassion when we needed it most. On July 5, 2006, Eleanor, who was still involved in some consultative work with COU in what should have been her retirement days, died suddenly. She was a quiet, gentle soul with a big heart. Eleanor is missed by family, friends and colleagues.

COUNCIL NOTES

Jack Lightstone assumes presidency of Brock University

On July 1, 2006, Jack N. Lightstone assumed the role of President and Vice-Chancellor of Brock University, in addition to his appointment as Professor of History in Brock's Faculty of Humanities.

Prior to joining Brock, Dr. Lightstone spent 30 years at Concordia University in Montreal. A longtime Professor of Religion at Concordia, he chaired the department from 1979 to 1985 and served as Graduate Program Director for the MA in Judaic Studies and PhD in Religion. From 1989 to 1992, he served as Associate Vice-Rector, Academic (Research). He was Provost and Vice-Rector from 1995 to 2004, and led the academic sector through an extensive, ongoing academic planning process and a difficult period of budget restrictions.

Dr. Lightstone received his BA from Carleton University, and his MA and PhD from Brown University in Rhode Island. He was a Visiting Research Graduate Fellow at Hebrew University in Jerusalem in 1974-75.

An expert on ancient and contemporary North American Judaism, Dr. Lightstone has written and lectured extensively, and remains an active scholar funded by external peer-reviewed grants. He is the author of six books and is widely published in scholarly and professional journals.

Dr. Lightstone succeeds Dr. Terry Boak, who served as Acting President for one year.

Ron Bordessa takes office as President of UOIT

Ronald Bordessa took office as President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) on July 1, 2006. Prior to joining UOIT, he served as Vice-President, Academic, and Provost at Royal Roads University in Victoria, B.C.

Dr. Bordessa's postsecondary career began at York University's Atkinson College, where he taught at both the undergraduate and graduate levels in the Department of Geography. The next 30 years he spent in service to York in progressively responsible academic administrative positions that included Program Coordinator, Urban Studies; Chair of Geography and Social Work; and Associate Dean and Dean of Atkinson College, renamed Atkinson Faculty of Liberal and Professional Studies.

Dr. Bordessa was a Visiting Professor of Geography at the University of Western Australia in Perth and at Helsinki University in Finland, and continues to hold the position and title of Docent at the University of Joensuu in Finland. He has published nationally and internationally, and his research interests include the social life in urban areas, literary studies and environmental issues.

Born in Wales, Dr. Bordessa received his BA in Geography from the University of Wales at Swansea and a PhD in Geography from Liverpool University. Dr. Bordessa succeeds Dr. Gary Polonsky, who retired from office.

Samy Mahmoud appointed President *pro tempore* of Carleton University

Dr. Samy Mahmoud was appointed President and Vice-Chancellor *pro tempore* of Carleton University on November 20, 2006.

Dr. Mahmoud has held several distinguished academic and administrative positions at Carleton University, including his most recent appointment as Acting Provost and Vice-President, Academic. Previously, he served for eight years as the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Design and 10 years as the Chair of the Department of Systems and Computer Engineering.

Known nationally and internationally for his contributions to teaching and research in the engineering field, Dr. Mahmoud is the recipient of several international recognition awards for innovations and technology transfer to industry. He is also the author of numerous engineering publications and a major text book on modern telecommunications systems.

He is the founder of a number of provincial and national research and development ventures that involved close collaboration with government and industry as well as major research facilities at Carleton University that today house the research programs of a large number of graduate students and faculty members.

A graduate of Carleton University, Dr. Mahmoud obtained his doctoral degree in Electrical Engineering in 1975.

Council also welcomed six new Academic Colleagues in 2006-07

Dr. Mary Louise Hill
Professor, Department of Geology
Lakehead University

Dr. Brian Campbell
Dean of Graduate Studies
University of Ontario Institute of Technology

Dr. Sylvie Albert
Professor, School of Commerce and Administration
Laurentian University

Dr. Daniel Lang
Professor, Senior Policy Advisor to the President and Coordinator of the Program in Higher Education, OISE
University of Toronto

Dr. Michael McCabe
Assistant Professor, Mathematics Education and Health and Physical Education
Nipissing University

Dr. Maricela Gutierrez
Professor, Department of Spanish and Latin American Studies
University of Waterloo

COU publications available online

2004-05 Compendium of Statistical and Financial Information

The *Compendium* is a companion piece to the three-volume annual publication, *Financial Report of Ontario Universities*, which is prepared annually by the Council of Finance Officers–Universities of Ontario (COFO-UO) from submissions from each of Ontario's publicly assisted universities and federated and affiliated colleges. The 2004-05 edition of the *Compendium* contains supplementary information on Ontario universities that helps put the COFO-UO data in context and facilitates interpretation of the financial reports.

Status of Women in Ontario Universities

The report, *Status of Women in Ontario Universities*, provides statistical information that tracks women's participation at all levels within the Ontario university system across a number of important variables, including demographics, student application rates, student enrolment levels, degrees awarded and faculty positions. The 2006 report was prepared by COU's Standing Committee on Human Rights.

COU [illegible] Notes

The 2006-07 edition of the *Council of Ontario Universities Briefing Notes* presents an overview of key facts and issues facing Ontario's universities. The document is divided into three sections: Ontario University Sector Overview; Funding and Statistical Information; and Policy and Program Issues.

COU Biennial Report

The 2004-06 edition of the *Biennial Report*, which covers the period of July 1, 2004, to June 30, 2006, highlights the activities of the Council of Ontario Universities on the basis of the Council's three core functions: advocacy, self-management and advice to government.

RECORD

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ONTARIO UNIVERSITIES

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UNIVERSITÉS DE L'ONTARIO

[illegible]

Academic Colleagues

Brock University
Dr. Marilyn Rose
Dean, Graduate Studies

Carleton University
Dr. Jean-Guy Goulet
Dean, Faculty of Science

University of Guelph
Dr. Alan Shepard
Associate Vice-President Academic

Lakehead University
Dr. Mary Louise Hill
Professor, Department of Geology

Laurentian University
Dr. Sylvie Albert
Professor, School of Commerce and Administration

McMaster University
Dr. Susan Elliott
Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences

Nipissing University
Dr. Michael McCabe
Assistant Professor Mathematics Education and Health and Physical Education

University of Ontario Institute of Technology
Dr. Brian Campbell
Dean, Graduate Studies

University of Ottawa
Dr. Antoni Lewkowicz
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Queen's University
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Canada Research Chair in Cancer Biology

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Professor, Department of Philosophy

University of Toronto
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Professor, Department of English Literature

University of Waterloo
Dr. Mariela Gutiérrez
Professor, Department of Spanish and Latin American Studies

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Professor, Department of Economics and Division of Social Science

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Listing of Committees Associated with the Council of Ontario Universities (COU)

The following is a list of standing committees and their members who help make it possible for The Council of Ontario Universities to achieve its objectives.

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Prof. Cosmin Goberman
Status of Women Officer
University of Toronto

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Manager, Employment Equity
University of Windsor

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Ombudsperson and Director, York Centre for Human Rights
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Canada Research Chair in
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to the President and
Co-ordinator, Program in
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University of Ontario Institute
of Technology

Ms. Maria Musat
Facilities Planner
University of Ottawa

Mr. Manny Ravinsky
Facilities and Capital Planner
Ryerson University

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Facilities Planning
University of Toronto

Mr. John Wordley
Director, Physical Resources
Trent University

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